

**7000 Acres**

**7000 Acres Response to the Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd Application on the subject of:**

**Food Security**

**Deadline 2 Submission – 8 August 2023**

## **Food Security:**

If the world becomes short of electricity then we will adapt to some other form of energy. If the world becomes short of food then we will starve and die. Farmland must be used for food production not energy generation.

We have huge competing demands for the use of land in this country. We've got to consider new homes, growing food, space for nature, and generating the energy we all use in our daily lives. Putting solar panels on the millions of roofs across the country means that we don't need to use as much extra land to meet our energy needs. This saves land from industrialisation, and paves the way for regenerative agriculture that will produce food and provide a much-needed home for declining wildlife species.

Placing solar panels on urban rooftops protects the beauty of our landscapes. After all, it's unspoiled views of green fields and rolling hills that make the English countryside so special. Whether the land outside a village or town is considered 'high grade' or not, the loss of green fields to metal and glass is so strongly resisted by local communities because it would transform a part of the countryside that matters intimately to them.

We are not against solar energy and propose for solar panels to be mandatory on all new build developments whether that be residential, commercial or agricultural and believe that there is room for larger scale PV arrays to be situated on some suitable brownfield sites. However, we also believe that we should protect our best and most versatile agricultural land to promote food security, help the rural economy and encourage agricultural practises to promote sustainable methods to tackle climate change. Next time you see pictures of adults and children suffering from starvation I hope that your conscience is clear that you made the right decision that food is more important than electricity.